

The Visitor

November 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA · 2190 Jackson Hwy Chehalis, WA 98532
www.stjohnlutheranchehalis.net · 360.748.4741 · office@stjohnschehalis.net

I know that it's barely November, but if I don't point it out, we might miss it - again!

With Halloween behind us now, Christmas is about to hit the stores and advertising in all its forms with full force! I'm sure most of us have already seen decorations beginning to take up shelf space here & there. Thanksgiving takes a back seat and the entire season of Advent is, as often as not it seems, overlooked entirely.

Advent, the season of anticipation and reflection that precedes Christmas, should not be rushed or overlooked. It serves as a valuable reminder of the deeper spiritual meaning behind the holiday. By taking time to observe Advent, we embrace the themes of hope, love, joy and peace - as we talked about in our midweek Advent services last year. This annual observance allows us to connect with the true essence of Christmas and what it means in our lives of faith. Rushing headlong into Christmas can cause us to focus solely on materialism and consumerism, neglecting the spiritual significance. Advent encourages us to slow down, practice mindfulness and nurture a sense of patience. In doing so, we can appreciate the profound beauty and spiritual richness of the holiday season.

A couple years ago, Living Lutheran magazine had some reflection points to help us observe this season of waiting:

- Hope: What does hope mean? What relation does hope have to the coming of the Messiah? For you? For Christians? For our world? Why is hope an appropriate theme for Advent?

Continued on page 2

St. Johns Lutheran Church Statement of Mission

Rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ we exist to

- **PROCLAIM** God's unconditional love we exist to
- **GROW** in discipleship as we follow in Jesus' steps and
- **SERVE** others as instruments of God's Holy Spirit

**St. John's
Lutheran Church, ELCA
2190 Jackson Hwy
360/748-4741
office@stjohnschehalis.net
www.stjohnschehalis.net**

**Pastor Jim Odden
360-269-4300
pastor@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Minister of Music:
Joan Jahnsen
748-3901
jahnsen71@msn.com**

**Parish Administrator:
Michelle Turner
office@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Streaming:
Ethan Fick:
Stream-
ing@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Office Hours:
9 a.m to 2:30 p.m Monday
thru Thursday**

**Editor:
Michelle Turner**

**Worship
Schedule:**

- **9:30 a.m.
Worship**
- **10:30 a.m.
HS Sunday School**
- **10:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Confirmation
Class**

- **Peace:** How would you define peace? What is peace to you and every other individual and family? What is peace to your community? Our nation? Our world? What peace do we expect the Messiah to bring? Why is peace an appropriate Advent theme?
- **Joy:** What is joy? How is it different from happiness? What does happiness add to your life? What does joy? Which would you prefer? When it comes to faith and the promises of God, what does joy mean to you? Your family? Our world? Why is joy an appropriate Advent theme?
- **Love:** In our culture, love has lots of meanings. What is "love" in a Christian and faith context? In this context, what does it mean for you, your family, congregation and our world? Why is love an appropriate Advent theme?
- **How do the themes of hope, peace, joy and love interrelate to help us prepare for the coming of the Messiah?**

It is a few weeks away yet, but don't let it slip by! Don't miss it! Be thankful this Thanksgiving, and once you've had a day to eat too much, give thanks for the hope, the peace, the joy and the love in your life. Not just one day at the end of the month, but throughout the entire Advent season!

God's peace,

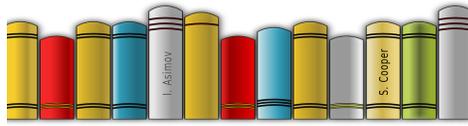
Dr. Jim

Women's News:

Women's Monthly Bible Study

Due to illness and other conflicts we did not have our Bible study on Oct. 21st so we will try again to do session two of our "Holy Places" Bible study on Sat. Nov. 18th at 10:00 and look at "Sanctuary" For thousands of years, physical spaces have been set apart for individual prayer and community worship. "Sanctuary" is one word for such spaces. Throughout history, "sanctuary" has also referred to spaces of safety and refuge. If God is everywhere, what is the importance of sanctuary? What can Jesus' teachings and Paul's correspondence with the early church teach us about what sanctuary looks like today?

Library / Book Guild



The St. John's Book Guild will meet November 28th at 7:00 in the conference room. We will be reviewing "The Sweetest Hallelujah" by Elaine Hussey. All women and friends are invited to attend. If you should have questions, you can call Joan Jahnsen.

"Jewel Hughes was once the hottest black jazz singer in Memphis. But when she finds herself pregnant and alone, she gives up her dream of being a star to raise her beautiful daughter, Billie, in Shakerag, Mississippi. Now, ten years later, in 1955, Betty Jewel is dying of cancer and looking for someone to care for Billie when she's gone. With no one she can count on, Betty Jewel takes out a want ad seeking a loving mother for her daughter. Meanwhile, on the other side of

town, recently widowed Cassie Malone is an outspoken housewife insulated by her wealth and privileged white society. Working part-time at a newspaper, she is drawn to Betty Jewel through her mysterious ad. With racial tension in the South brewing, the women forge a bond as deep as it is forbidden. But neither woman could have imagined the gifts they would find in each other, and in the sweet young girl they both love with all their hearts. Deeply moving and richly evocative, *The Sweetest Hallelujah* is a remarkable tale about finding hope in a time of turmoil, and about the transcendent and transformative power of friendship.

Courtesy of Goodreads.

Have you been to the church library lately? It is open every day that the church is open! While it isn't exceptionally large, there is quite a selection of books available and at least ten new books are added each year. We hope you will join us for our monthly Book Guild meeting! Discussions are always open to everyone and various opinions are enjoyed. Don't forget the book rack in the Narthex...lots of books available for purchase!.

Altar Guild:

ALTAR GUILD is taking orders for Poinsettias to decorate the Altar in preparation of Christmas. Be sure to order your \$10 poinsettias in honor of your loved ones or to the Glory of God. A Poinsetta Form is at the end of the Visitor & weekly Sunday Worship Bulletin for your convenience. You can give your form to any Altar Guild Member. If you choose to bring your own poinsetta be sure to mark your container with your name.

Cedar Greens & Holly sale beginning Sunday Dec 3rd for \$1 each bag in the Narthex. We will have some bags of pinecones available for 50cents each





Who: Children up thru grade 5
What: Songs, Story, Games & Snack
When: **Wednesdays 4:15-5:00pm**
**beginning Sept. 13th*
Where: Conference Room
Leader: Joan Jahnsen & helpers



Thank you to all who contributed to make the 2023 Lewis County CROP Hunger Walk a success this year!

Here are the totals:

A total of \$2742 was raised by walkers.

Of that total, \$685.50 will go to our local Food Bank coalition.

St. Johns raised \$770 for this year's walk.

Thank you for helping to ensure there is enough for all



Ceci

Young at Heart Fall 2023

Young at Heart 2023 met for the first time Wednesday October 18 at 1p.m. in the Conference Room. Wednesday was chosen as it was midweek and because leaders Sue Edwards and Nancy Lynch have other commitments on Thursday and Friday. Those 7 present agreed to maintain the 3rd Wednesday but start at 1:30 to allow more time for attendees to have lunch on their own before the meeting. All agreed to forgo the previous meal format and instead have snacks and coffee for ease of preparation. Lorna Johnson gave a history of YAH and types of programs that were held. Some topics of current interest included jury duty, Pawsome Pet Store, Lewis County Gospel Mission, Braun Ambulance, and travelogues from church members. Attendees were encouraged to consider sharing hobbies from self or friends and neighbors. Sue Edwards, a docent at the Veterans Memorial Museum since 2014, offered to give a tour there sometime. If a group of 10 can be confirmed for the same date, the charge would be \$4 apiece vs. the regular \$8 for a senior citizen. Sue may also be able to secure some free passes if cost is a deterrent. The museum has chairs throughout the gallery for those who may need to sit awhile. Ideally the tour could happen during the regular meeting time. People would need to express an interest to Sue and preferred month before she would schedule a tour which could be fall, winter or spring. This should be of interest to both men and women as many of us have a family history of military service. The next meeting is scheduled Wednesday November 15 at 1:30p.m. in the Conference Room. Please consider joining us.



From Your Pet Over the Rainbow Bridge

If you're afraid you gave me too few caresses, you must know I haven't forgotten even one.
If you regret scolding me even once, you must know I don't even remember it.
If you think you left me alone too long, you must know I've always been waiting for you.
If you fear you devoted too little time to me, you must know I enjoyed every moment.
If you think you played me "small," I never counted the times you threw me the ball.
If you think I've forgotten your scent, even now I am smelling it in the wind.
If you want to be reborn in another life, I would like to be your puppy in that one too.
If you are convinced you have flaws, you must know that for me you have been perfect.
If you think love can have an end, in my heart the place of love is infinite.
If you have regrets about me, I wouldn't change a single second of the life I spent with you.
If you think I no longer hear your voice, just trust the sunset breeze to bring me your words.
If you think I can forget your face, I wanted to live just to enjoy your look.
If you think I could have loved someone more than you, I loved you more than I loved myself.
If you think I would like a soft couch, I'd have slept on the rocks with you.
If you think I wanted more than you gave me, I have always felt the happiest pup in the world.
If you've ever felt lonely, you must know I never left my place next to you.
If you think my life's been too short, I wouldn't want to live another minute if not at your side.
If you fear I am no longer close to you, know that when you close your eyes I'll be next to you.
If you think you didn't make the right decision, I have always trusted you. Always.
If you dream of seeing me again someday, know that I'll be there waiting for you like I've always done.

Brenda Morelos

Submitted by Sue Edwards for fellow animal lovers (dog, cat, horse, hamster, fish...). As a widow of just over a year, I believe most of these statements also apply to your loved ones in heaven.



From the Library

In the mood for some lighthearted Christmas reading to spark your holiday spirit?

Check out the church library – 9 Christmas themed books are available for your reading pleasure.

These are temporary books on loan for the holidays, and will not be added to the permanent collection.



Mobile Meals Update

MMM volunteers served "brunch" at Lewis County Gospel Mission Saturday October 28 from approximately 9:00-10:30. The menu included: pork quesadillas with salsa and sour cream, baked eggs, spring mix salad with Italian dressing, banana muffins, apple crisp with whipped topping, and juice or milk. A total of 72 plates were served with some being second helpings.

The MMM crew was comprised of Donna Moir as head cook, Jim and Joan Jahnsen, Susan Russell, and Sue Edwards. 64 sack lunches of juice, pbj sandwich, fruited jello cup, fruit bar, chips, and cookies were distributed after offsite assembly by the Jahnsens and Sue Edwards. A few guests take either a hot lunch or a sack lunch and not both. Our crew was onsite from 7:30-11:30. The pork and the dessert were pre-cooked at St. John's. Onions were fried at the Mission and the quesadillas were assembled with veggies and cheese and grilled onsite. The baked egg casseroles were also made onsite. The muffins were made ahead from donated bananas from the church freezer. This is explained so you have an appreciation of the work involved in this meal.

New volunteers are always welcome as we only have 7 volunteers from which to staff the 3rd Saturday of each month. A crew of 5 is ideal. In September, our crew of 3 was really hopping as 2 helpers cancelled. If you are interested, please check with our scheduler Shari Blackwell at 360-740-8048 or undershirt@dslextreme.com. You can help one time to try it out without having to do the paperwork and State Patrol background check required by the Gospel Mission which is located just south of the Lewis County Courthouse. If you cannot help in person, you may donate supplies for the sack lunches by checking with Jim, Joan, or Sue. submitted by Sue Edwards

Kitchen Coordinator needed

We are seeking a kitchen coordinator to help keeping track of kitchen related issues, since Lorna has retired from that responsibility. We thank her for her years of keeping things organized and in line! We are working on a baseline inventory of the coffee hour supplies, and then creating a checklist for supplies. Once that has been done, we would like to see if someone would volunteer to check the supplies against the inventory list, on a routine basis, and notify Michelle when items are needed to be ordered. This is an independent project, and can be done at your preferred date/time. Please consider volunteering your talents in this area, it would be greatly appreciated.



Coffee hour Help needed!

Sign up sheets in the Narthex.

We need people to provide treats, juice and to make coffee.



Financial Review:

Monthly income
October \$ 14,911.61
Monthly expenses
October \$ 22,590.25

Actual

YTD income: \$188,776.89
YTD expenses: \$194,802.05

We Thank You for your Generous Gift



Giving to Support St. John's

As a church we encourage those who are part of the St. John's family to be giving to the work of our congregation. We believe you should not feel burdened by the issue of giving but in fact, find it a joy! We are pleased to provide e-giving options as an alternative to giving cash and checks in the offering plate (your cash and checks are always welcome!).

Mobile Phone: Scan the QR code provided here to access our mobile giving site and follow the prompts.

Our Website – on your computer, go to www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the “donate” button

Online Banking – Arrange to give through bill-pay at your own bank's website. You will be asked for the following information:

St. John's Lutheran Church
2190 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-4741



Questions? Contact the Office

Gentle Reminder

If you are aged 70 1/2+ and have investments that now require you to make monthly withdrawals, you can have any amount of that monthly money sent as offering to St, Johns TAX FREE. The contribution must come directly from your Financial institution, not directly from you. Contact you financial planner to set it up, and let whomever does your taxes know so you get the tax relief. Its easy to do, and will save you some tax dollars.

Council thanks you



One Little Tree Preschool Returns September 11

Preschool hours

Monday 9 to 12

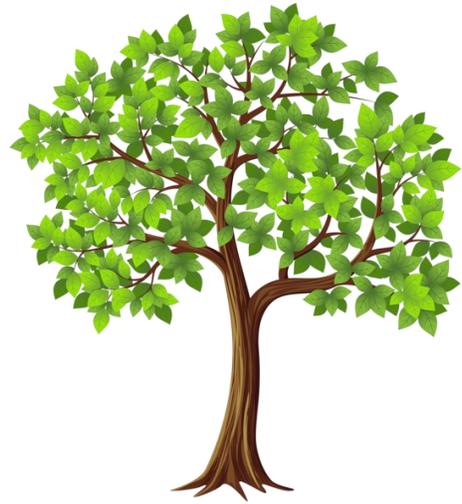
Tuesday 9 to 12

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 9 to 12

Friday 9 to 12

The preschool is using the upstairs kitchen the Meeting room next to the kitchen as well as the end classroom.



2023 ST. JOHNS COUNCIL

President Ceci Hauer

Vice President Rick Michal

Treasurer Donna Moir

Secretary Susan Russell

Council Members Assigned to the following Committees

Altar Guild

Youth and Family Ceci Hauer

Worship and Music Susan Russell

Property Rick Michal

Social Ministries Sara Blair

Mutual Ministries Mindy Judd

Church Growth Shari Blackwell

Stewardship Steve Kostanich

Worship Registration Cards

We are asking that those attending the worship service complete a worship registration card each week. Our church constitution currently states to be a voting member you must communion and contribute once during the calendar year. Completing a card each week helps with this requirement but it also gives you a chance to communicate with pastor or the church office. You can write prayer requests or songs requests on the back or indicate if you would like a visit from pastor. If the church office has all your information you don't need to fill out your address, etc. just your name and check the box if you are taking communion. Those that are streaming from home, we ask that you just sign-in each week in the comments section. Thank you for your help.

Birthdays

2	Jonathan Isaacson Jennifer Willson
3	Matt Edwards Matt Meagher
4	Nathaniel Birchard
5	Susan Donaldson Steve Kostanich
8	Kaylynn Mitchell
11	David March
12	Kathryn Rotter Eirik Odden Johnathan Vlach
13	Colt Conzatti
14	Rachel March
18	David Barber Helen Buda
20	Meg Nelson
21	Marilyn Fenn
22	Georgie Radnich
23	David Stanfield Emma Thomas
25	Scott Judd Kerry Vance



Baptism Anniversaries

2	Anna Russell
4	Will Cummings
7	Christian, Timothy, Matthew Eva Munz
10	Kaylynn Mitchell
11	Catie Scott
15	Mia Suhrbier
18	Kasey Ramacher
25	Luke Amrine Eric Moir
27	Francesca Grace Minshull Moir
29	Susan Donaldson Ron Kuxhausen Justin Wilson

Anniversaries

4	Jill and Jerry Carlson
12	Carmen and Mike Brown
18	Shirley and Ron Kuxhausen
23	Gail and Larry Dean



Birthdays

4	Jan Cosser Sam Teitzel
6	Chuck Ziegert
8	Michael Thomas
9	Candice Tobin
10	Jim Gilliland
13	Anna Kreutz
14	Luanna Deming Linda Lowery Andrew Michal
16	Courtney Cox
17	Jack Cosser
18	Allen Unzelman
19	Lincoln Duncan
20	Sara Blair Lynette Gage Kellen Justice Lauri Kreutz
24	Keith Birchard Mary DuBois
28	Brynne Bailey Katrin Kreutz
30	Katrina Kirsch
31	Travis Newman



Anniversaries

30 Mindy and Jon Judd
Nancy and Wally Jordan

Baptism Anniversaries

2	Heidi Meier
4	Mariah Unzelman
9	Michael Grega
10	Steve Kostanich
12	Steve Dean
15	Bob, Jan & Dave Cosser Kathryn & Russ Cox
16	Nathan Suhrbier
17	Barbara Grega
20	Ann Salzer
21	Ben Suhrbier
22	Jackson Humphrey
23	Zach Stanfield Johnathan Vlach
26	Jamison Scott
27	Ashleigh Cox
31	Katie Meier

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>8 a.m Group exercise class 4:15 Kids of the Kingdom</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>All Saints Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 Confirmation class</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class 9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 a.m Group exercise class 4:15 Kids of the Kingdom 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 1:15 p.m. Fiber arts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Confirmation class Executive Board meeting after worship service</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class 9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 6:30 pm Council meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8 a.m Group exercise class 1:30 pm Young at Heart 4:15 Kids of the Kingdom 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 1:15 p.m. Fiber arts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class 9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am Women Bible study and Brunch</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship Noisy Sunday 10:45 Confirmation class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class 9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8 a.m Group exercise class 4:15 Kids of the Kingdom 7:00 pm</p> <p><i>Thanksgiving Service</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Happy Thanksgiving</i></p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Mobile Meals @Gospel Mission</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 Confirmation class</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise class 9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 10 a.m. Altar Guild work party</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 7 p.m. Book Guild</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8 a.m Group exercise class 4:15 Kids of the Kingdom 7 p.m. Advent Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 a.m. to 12 pm One Little Tree Preschool 1:15 p.m. Fiber arts</p>		

Upcoming Events

November 5 All Saints day

November 8 and 15th Adult Choir practice 7pm

November 18 Women's Bible Study and Brunch 10 am

November 19 Noisy Sunday

November 22 Thanksgiving eve Service 7pm

November 23 Thanksgiving

November 25 Mobile Meals @ Gospel Mission

November 27 Altar Guild Work Party 10 am

St. John's QR Codes They are simple to use just open up your Camera on your smart phone, tap your finger on the QR code and it will take you right to the Facebook page, Website and Worship link.

Facebook page



Website



Worship link



St. John's Calendar Our church calendar has moved! You will find the new Calendar in the hallway leading to the Conference room. If you are interested in when the community center is rented that calendar is in the copy room. We also have an online Calendar on our website. If there is something you would like to add feel free to do so, let Michelle know so it can be added online if you would like.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY:

St. John's Altar Guild members are asking for your help in decorating the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Services. Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary and are available through the Altar Guild for \$10 each. Poinsettias can be given in honor or memory of a loved one, or given to the glory of God. You are welcome to bring your own poinsettia (mark your name on the bottom and take it home after Christmas services). To donate toward the purchase of a poinsettia, fill out the form below and put it, along with the money in the offering plate for the poinsettias by **December 15**, give it to any Altar Guild member or mail the form, along with your money, to the church office (2190 Jackson Hwy., Chehalis, WA 98532).

Altar Guild members are Jan Cosser, Marilyn Fenn, Nancy Lynch, Patty Olsen, Corrine Crowner, Linda Mettler and Sue Edwards

Please make checks out to St. John's Altar Guild.

Name: _____

I wish to purchase # _____ poinsettias at \$10.00 each. Total amount: \$ _

In Honor of: ____

In Memory of: _

To the Glory of God.

I will provide a poinsettia.

